Seizure of Smack by Police

1584. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 25th April, 1988 to the effect that smack worth Rs. 22 crore in international market was seized by the district police near Jakhali village near Patiala from a truck which was on its way to Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to stop such types of crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Economic Offences against President, NCCF

1585. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2287 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th March, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports of economic offences and amassing or huge properties by the then President, NCCF which appeared in the Jansatta of 8th April, 1986 captioned "Sahkarita Yani Mil Baat Kar Khao' (ii) in the Indian Observer of March, 1988 captioned 'Tapeshwar Singh, MP on looting Spree' and (iii) in the Indian Observer of April, 1986 captioned 'Tapeshwar Singh in the Dock'; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cases of the then President, NCCF, his family members and his concerns have been centralised with a Senior assessing officer of the Income-tax Department for coordinated and in-depth investigation and completion of assessments.

Sick Textile Mills in Tamil Nadu

1586. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of sick textile mills which are lying closed in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government propose to convene a high level meeting to discuss about the sickness of these textile mills in order to make these units viable; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be convened?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) As on 29.2.88 there were a total of 42 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills lying closed in Tamil Nadu. Of these, two cases had been registered by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies Act.

(b) and (c) Government have already constituted, a Nodal Agency to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in respect of sick textile mills found by it to be viable. A Textile Modernisation Fund has been created to meet the modernisation needs of weak but potentially viable textile units. A Board for Industrial

and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has also been set up under the Sick Industrial Companies Act to consider the cases of sick textile companies.

Opening of Regional Rural Banks

1587. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Regional Rural Banks in every district of this country;

(b) what is the total loss incurred in Regional Rural Banks during the last five years;

(c) what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve the performance of the Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In terms of current Policy attention is being paid to the consolidation of the operations of the Regional Rural Banks rather than their large scale expansion. Proposals for opening of RRBs in districts covered under Tribal Sub-Plan Areas and in Areas with predominance of Scheduled Castes population are being considered.

(b) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, the loss incurred by Regional Rural Banks during the last 5 years is as follows:—

Year	Amounts of loss (in Rs. lakhs)
1982	562
1983	969
1984	1539
1985	2990
1986	3352

(c) The main reasons for such losses are (i) rapid branch expansion by these banks (ii) low business potential due to locational disadvantages of the centres served by these banks and limited clientele consisting of persons with an annual income upto Rs. 6500 only; (iii) increase in establishment costs due to upward revision in pay and allowances etc.

(d) Pursuant to the recommendations made by the Working Group on RRBs, a number of steps have been taken for improving the performance of these banks and reducing their losses. These include (i) release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record; (ii) enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to public bodies/Village Panchayats etc.; (iii) lowering of interest rate on refinance provided to these banks by their sponsoring banks; and (iv) investment of their SLR funds directly in Government securities with a view to obtaining better return. The sponsoring Banks have also been asked to play a more active role in fund management, staff training and internal audits RRBs.

Scarcity of yarn

1588. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scarcity of yarn in the country and its price rise is due to the present export policy of Government;

(b) what is the total quantity of yarn exported in 1986 and 1987; and

(c) what were the reasons for exporting yarn when the production during the above period had declined?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The production of yarn in 1986-87 was 1526 m.kgs. and in 1987-88 (upto February, 1988) it was 1428.6 m. kgs. the rise in prices of cotton yarn was